

*Harry H. Birkenruth
81 Ball Hill Road
Storrs, Connecticut 06268*

October 7, 2009

Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee
Room 506, Capitol Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Chairs Kissel, Mushinsky and Members of the Committee:

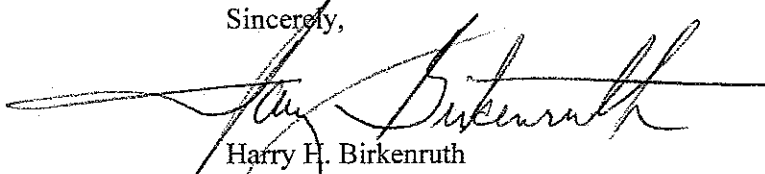
This letter is intended to contribute to your study of resources and strategies for the future economic development of Connecticut.

The Company with which I have spent most of my career, Rogers Corporation, has had considerable involvement at the University of Connecticut. I retired from Rogers a few years ago, having been CEO and Chairman of the Board. Rogers is a global technology leader in the development and manufacture of high performance specialty material products for applications in the communications, ground transportation, aerospace and defense industries. Our historic roots are in Connecticut and our headquarters, R&D Center and a major manufacturing operation are in eastern Connecticut, all in reasonably close proximity to the University of Connecticut and its Institute of Materials Science (IMS).

Today, Rogers is a growing New York Stock Exchange listed company with over \$300 million in sales. About thirty years ago, when IMS was founded at UConn, we were less than one-tenth our present size. Rogers has been a company member of the IMS Associates since the founding of IMS. The resources of IMS, especially its materials instrumentation and the faculty of IMS and the School of Engineering, have been of great value to us. A number of graduates have become Rogers' employees and made invaluable contributions to our growth.

The major driving force behind our company's growth, ability to create employment opportunities and financial success has been our technology. As you are well aware, technology moves fast; it does not stand still. Despite current economic constraints, it needs to be supported for the sake of our State's future. The work at UConn and IMS in nanotechnology is a major example. That work can be important to Rogers and other advanced materials companies in Connecticut. We need IMS to be in the forefront of more basic development to help us grow and provide jobs in Connecticut. We urge you to move forward with the State's nanotechnology investment that had been planned earlier, and to continue to support IMS and the School of Engineering at UConn.

Sincerely,



Harry H. Birkenruth
Retired CEO and Chairman of the Board
of Rogers Corporation